

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUNICH 02306 051515Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8854
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: GOPPEL, STRAUSS AND THE BAVARIAN MINISTER-
PRESIDENCY

1. INTRO AND SUMMARY. QUESTION OF WHETHER INCUMBENT BAVARIAN MINISTER-PRESIDENT GOPPEL WOULD STEP DOWN IN FAVOR OF CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS BEFORE THE BAVARIAN LANDTAG ELECTIONS IN FALL OF 1978 HAS BEEN THE PRIMARY ISSUE IN CSU POLITICS HERE SINCE EARLY 1977. ALTHOUGH GOPPEL STILL PREFERS TO COMPLETE HIS TERM IN OFFICE, HE SEEMS TO BE INCREASINGLY UNCERTAIN WHETHER HE WILL BE ABLE TO RESIST THE PRESSURE OF THE STRAUSS FORCES TO STEP DOWN. IN RECENT MEDIA INTERVIEWS, GOPPEL HAS DROPPED HINTS THAT IF HE WERE COMPELLED TO STEP DOWN, HE WOULD WANT TO REPRESENT CSU IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND CONTINUE TO SERVE AS ORDINARY BAVARIAN LANDTAG DEPUTY. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 MUNICH 02306 051515Z

2. IN INTERVIEW WITH APROVINCIAL BAVARIAN NEWSPAPER AND DPA AUGUST 3 AND 5, GOPPEL REAFFIRMED HIS INTENTION TO COMPLETE HIS FOUR YEAR TERM OF OFFICE WHICH EXPIRES IN FALL OF 1978. FOR THE FIRST TIME, HOWEVER, HE TOOK LINE THAT THERE IS NO RPT NO NEED FOR FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS TO DEMONSTRATE HIS COMPLETENCE TO BE BAVARIAN MINISTER-PRESIDENT BY SERVING A PROBAGIONARY PERIOD IN THAT OFFICE BEFORE THE BAVARIAN LANDTAG

ELECTIONS. TO SUPPORT HIS ARGUMENT, GOPPEL POINTED OUT THAT STRAUSS WAS AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED POLITICAN WHO HAD HEADED THE FRG FEDERAL MINISTRIES OF ATOMIC ENERGY, DEFENSE AND FINANCE.

3. IN THESE SAME INTERVIEWS, GOPPEL SPOKE ABOUT HIS POLITICAL INTENTIONS WHEN HE STEPS DOWN AS MINISTER-PRESIDENT. HE EXPRESSED A STRONG INTEREST IN SERVING AS ONE OF BAVARIA'S REPRESENTATIVES TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN STRAUSBOURG. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT HE WISHED TO OBTAIN THE NO. ONE SLOT ON THE CSU'S UPPER PALATINATE LIST FOR 1978 LANDTAG ELECTION WITHOUT SIMULTANEOUSLY HAVING TO RUN AS A DIRECT CANDIDATE OF AN ELECTORAL DISTRICT.

4. COMMENT. GOPPEL MUST BE AWARE THAT HE HAS NOW GIVEN STRAUSS AND HIS ALLIES BARGAINING POWER WHICH THEY ARE ALMOST CERTAIN TO USE TO PRESSURE HIM TO STEP DOWN. THE MOST INFLUENTIAL CSU OFFICIALS IN UPPER PALATINATE ARE CSU LANDTAG "FRAKTION" CHAIRMAN LANG AND UPPER PALATINATE PARTY DISTRICT CHAIRMAN SACKMANN. LANG IS AN AVOWED GOPPEL ENEMY AND SACKMANN IS NOT REPEAT NOT A GOPPEL ALLY.

5. GOPPEL WILL PRESUMABLY NEED STRAUSS' BACKING IF HE IS TO HEAD THE CSU LIST IN UPPER PALATINATE. LUNCH IS NEVER FREE, HOWEVER, AND STRAUSS IS ALMOST SURE TO ASK GOPPEL TO PAY THE PRICE OF HIS EARLY RESIGNATION IF HE WISHES STRAUSS' ASSISTANCE IN THE UPPER PALATINATE. GILMORE
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PAGE 03 MUNICH 02306 051515Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LEADERS, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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